

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

USDC SDNY  
DOCUMENT  
ELECTRONICALLY FILED  
DOC #: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE FILED: 9/13/2021

United States,

—v—

17-cr-440 (AJN)

Rafael Almonte,

AMENDED ORDER

Defendant.

ALISON J. NATHAN, District Judge:

A conference in this matter is scheduled for September 14, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. The proceeding will be conducted by videoconference via Microsoft Teams. The Court will separately provide the parties with instructions for accessing the conference. Members of the public may access the audio of the proceeding by calling 917-933-2166 and entering Conference ID 339467265.

All persons accessing the proceeding must mute their lines unless given permission to unmute. Any recording or rebroadcasting of any portion of the proceeding is strictly prohibited. Violations of this order can result in fines or other sanctions.

If possible, defense counsel shall discuss the attached Waiver of Right to be Present at Criminal Proceeding with the Defendant and return the completed form **at least 24 hours prior to the proceeding**. Defense counsel may sign on the Defendant's behalf if authorized by the Defendant to do so.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 13, 2021  
New York, New York



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ALISON J. NATHAN  
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-v-

WAIVER OF RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AT  
CRIMINAL PROCEEDING

Rafael Almonte,

(17)-cr-(440) (AJN)

Defendant.

-----X

**Check Proceeding that Applies**

Arraignment

I have been given a copy of the indictment containing the charges against me and have reviewed it with my attorney. I understand that I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York to confirm that I have received and reviewed the indictment; to have the indictment read aloud to me if I wish; to enter a plea of either guilty or not guilty before the judge; and to have an attorney beside me as I do. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that after consultation with my attorney I willingly give up my right to appear in person before the judge for my arraignment. By signing this document, I also wish to advise the court that I willingly give up any right I might have to have my attorney next to me for my arraignment so long as the following conditions are met. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf during the proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defendant

Criminal Status Conference

I have been charged in an indictment with violations of federal law. I understand that I have a right to be present at all conferences concerning this indictment that are held by a judge in the Southern District of New York, unless the conference involves only a question of law. I understand that at these conferences the judge may, among other things, 1) set a schedule for the case including the date at which the trial will be held, and 2) determine whether, under the Speedy Trial Act, certain periods of time should be properly excluded

in setting the time by which the trial must occur. I have discussed these issues with my attorney and wish to give up my right to be present at the conferences. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to be present at the conferences in my case for the period of time in which access to the courthouse has been restricted on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. I request that my attorney be permitted to represent my interests at the proceedings even though I will not be present.

Date:

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Print Name

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Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_ Entry of Plea of Guilty

I am aware that I have been charged with violations of federal law. I have consulted with my attorney about those charges. I have decided that I wish to enter a plea of guilty to certain charges. I understand I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York to enter my plea of guilty and to have my attorney beside me as I do. I am also aware that the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with travel and restricted access to the federal courthouse. I have discussed these issues with my attorney. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to appear in person before the judge to enter a plea of guilty. By signing this document, I also wish to advise the court that I willingly give up any right I might have to have my attorney next to me as I enter my plea so long as the following conditions are met. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf during the proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date:

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Print Name

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Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_ Criminal Sentencing

I understand that I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York at the time of my sentence and to speak directly in that courtroom to the judge who will sentence me. I am also aware that the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with travel and restricted access to the federal courthouse. I do not wish to wait until the end of this emergency to be sentenced.

I have discussed these issues with my attorney and willingly give up my right to be present, at the time my sentence is imposed, in the courtroom with my attorney and the judge who will impose that sentence. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to appear in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York for my sentencing proceeding as well as my right to have my attorney next to me at the time of sentencing on the following conditions. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf at the proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date:

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Print Name

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Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_ Supervised Release Conference

I understand that I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York at the time the conditions of my release on supervision or my remand to custody are discussed. I have discussed these rights with my attorney and wish to give up these rights for the period of time in which access to the courthouse has been restricted on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. I request that my attorney and I be permitted to participate by telephone, or if it is reasonably available by videoconferencing, in any conference with the court at which such conditions or my remand are discussed.

Date:

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Print Name

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Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_ Admission of Specification

I am aware that I have been charged with violations of the terms of supervised release. I have consulted with my attorney about those charges. I have decided that I wish to admit to certain specifications. I understand I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York to enter my admission of the specifications and to have my attorney beside me as I do. I am also aware that the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with travel and restricted access to the federal courthouse. I have discussed these issues with my attorney. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to appear in person before the judge to admit to certain specifications. By signing this document, I also wish to advise the court that I willingly give up any right I might have to have my attorney next to me as I enter my plea so long as the following conditions are met. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf during the

proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date:

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Print Name

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Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_ Sentencing on Specification

I understand that I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York at the time of my sentence and to speak directly in that courtroom to the judge who will sentence me. I am also aware that the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with travel and restricted access to the federal courthouse. I do not wish to wait until the end of this emergency to be sentenced. I have discussed these issues with my attorney and willingly give up my right to be present, at the time my sentence is imposed, in the courtroom with my attorney and the judge who will impose that sentence. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to appear in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York for my sentencing proceeding as well as my right to have my attorney next to me at the time of sentencing on the following conditions. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf at the proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date:

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Print Name

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Signature of Defendant

I hereby affirm that I am aware of my obligation to discuss with my client the charges contained in the indictment or violation of supervised release report, my client's rights to attend and participate in the criminal proceedings encompassed by this waiver, and this waiver form. I affirm that my client knowingly and voluntarily consents to the proceedings being held in my client's absence. I will inform my client of what transpires at the proceedings and provide my client with a copy of the transcript of the proceedings, if requested.

Date:

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Signature of Defense Counsel

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Print Name

**Addendum for a defendant who requires services of an interpreter:**

I used the services of an interpreter to discuss these issues with the defendant. The interpreter also translated this document, in its entirety, to the defendant before the defendant signed it. The interpreter's name is:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defense Counsel

**Accepted:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Judge  
Date: